



Little Learners
NURSERY GROUP

Allergies

Reviewed: July 2019
To be reviewed: July 2020

At Little Learners, we are aware that children can have allergies which may cause allergic reactions. We will follow this policy to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or where possible prevented. We will ensure that staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

- Staff will be made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis
- Information will be passed on by parents from the registration form regarding allergic reactions and allergies and must be shared with all staff in the nursery
- An allergy poster will be kept in the nursery office, milk kitchen and base-room and updated when a new child starts, their dietary needs change or they move rooms. If a child's dietary needs change this must be confirmed by the parent in writing and care plan amended.
- The Principal / Nursery Manager/Deputy Manager will carry out a full Allergy Risk Assessment Procedure with the parent prior to the child starting the nursery. This information will be recorded in a care plan. For serious allergy cases, such as those requiring an epi-pen, care-plans will be completed with a school nurse (pre-school) or with their designated healthcare profession (babies and toddlers) prior to starting the nursery. A member of staff will be available to attend this meeting. All information will then be shared with Nursery staff and MDAs and displayed in base rooms with a front cover displaying a recent photo of the child and first name.
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy will be prepared in an area where there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts
- Care Plans are reviewed annually or when a child's needs change
- Upon induction, staff read about all care plans and dietary requirements in the setting. Room Leaders will go into detail room specific care plans to ensure they fully understand.
- The manager, nursery cook and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals on the current nursery menu.
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee sting, plant etc. a first aid

trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment. Parents must be informed and it must be recorded in the incident book which is kept in the Nursery

- If this treatment requires specialist treatment, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.
- On the outside of the cupboard where the epipens are stored the use by date will clearly be displayed for all to see. Two months prior to the epipens expiry date the parents will be asked to supply two new epipens. Children will not be permitted to stay at nursery without an in date epipen (ideally 2).
- Any allergy medication, (including epipens) must go with the children on any trips and outings, even if it is an onsite walk. Epipens must be carried by the most senior member of staff in the first aid bum bag.
- A sick child above all needs their family; therefore every effort should be made to contact a family member as soon as possible
- If the allergic reaction is severe a member of staff will summon an ambulance immediately. We WILL NOT attempt to transport the sick/injured child in our own vehicles
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the emergency contact and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff will accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and child's comforter
- Staff will remain calm at all times; children who witness an allergic reaction may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance
- All incidents will be recorded, shared and signed by parents at the earliest opportunity.
- If a parent is supplying a packed lunch, the child will sit separately and an adult will check the contents for allergens.